IN THE CLAIMS

The claims have not been amended herein. For convenience, however, a complete listing of the currently pending claims follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A vertically integrated method for facilitating the processing of transactions for entities, comprising:

receiving a request at a host system for a transaction from an entity via a network;

determining at the host system software programs for processing the transaction, the software programs being selected from a plurality of software programs located on at least one different system and providing processing for different services;

accessing the software programs via a network to process the transaction;

receiving results at the host system of the processing from a network; and

providing the results from the host system to the entity.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the accessing step includes accessing a solution stack having a plurality of software programs providing services to process the transaction.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the accessing step includes

using an integration block to access the software programs and maintain the software programs decoupled.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the accessing step includes using the software programs providing the following services: credit card processing, calculation of taxes, warehouse management, shipping, and invoicing.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including providing to the entities a single access point for processing of transactions using the software programs.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for providing a vertically integrated solution for processing transactions for entities, comprising:

a module configured to receive a request at a host system for a transaction from an entity via a network;

a module configured to determine at the host system software programs for processing the transaction, the software programs being selected from a plurality of software programs located on at least one different system and providing processing for different services;

a module configured to access the software programs via a network to process the transaction and to receive results at the host system of the processing from a network; and

a module configured to provide the results from the host system to the entity.

8. (Previously Presented) A method for providing a single source for facilitating the processing of transactions for business entities using a plurality of software programs, comprising:

providing to the entities a single communication point;

receiving at a host system via the single communication point requests for transactions from the entities via a network;

calling via a network a plurality of software programs in a solution stack located on at least one different system to process the transactions;

receiving results at the host system of the processing via a network; and

returning from the host system to the entities via the single communication point the results of the processing.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising decoupling the plurality of software programs using an integration block.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the calling step includes using the plurality of software programs providing the following services: credit card processing, calculation of taxes, warehouse management, shipping, and invoicing.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the calling step includes using software plug-ins to access the plurality of software programs.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the calling step includes using one of the plurality of software programs that calls the others of the plurality of software programs for processing the transactions.